



# General Manager's Report

Idahoptv.org

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## QUOTE

"Congratulations to Idaho Public Television for "West of the Basque," the magnificent documentary you aired this week. It is truly a program of which IPTV and the state of Idaho can be proud."

Michael Zuzel  
Special Assistant, Communications and Policy  
Boise Mayor David Bieter  
March 8, 2005



For more Buzz, checkout [idahoptv.org](http://idahoptv.org)

-On Sunday, March 20, IdahoPTV finished our annual sixteen day Festival on-air pledge campaign raising \$903,213. FESTIVAL 2005 was another example of how "Working Together We Can Make a Difference"! The final dollars were raised through the mail, on the web and over the air. On-line pledges totaled 12% of the total dollars raised! In addition, over 1797 viewers took the opportunity to become new members. We now turn our sights to the remaining three months in this fiscal year and the importance of the fulfillment of FESTIVAL pledges, the renewal of April through June memberships and the additional gifts that many of you give at the end of the fiscal year.

-On April 7, 2005, Governor Kempthorne signed IdahoPTV's fiscal year 2006 appropriations bill (HO 352) into law. On Tuesday, March 21, HO 352 passed the Idaho House on a 54-12-4 vote. On March 24, it passed the Senate on 34-0-0 vote. As described in detail the March GM Report, our FY 2006 appropriation provides for \$100 more in operating expense than FY 2005. HO 352 does include critical state matching funds for Phase 1 (of 3) for replacing IdahoPTV's aged analog studio production equipment. No funds were appropriated for any rural translator replacements.

-In September, IdahoPTV will celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the commencement of service of the first public television station signal, KUID, Moscow. A collaborative planning effort is underway with the School of Journalism and Mass Media at the University of Idaho for a reunion and celebration that will occur over two days beginning Friday, September 23 at our studio in Moscow. In addition, IdahoPTV plans to produce and broadcast a series of look-back historical segments that highlight our forty years of service to the state of Idaho.

-The planning for the implementation of Phase 2 (of 3) of the replacement of IdahoPTV's studio facilities in Moscow and Pocatello now targeted for fiscal 2007, is progressing with numerous and detailed conversations with our partners at the School of Journalism and Mass Media at the University of Idaho and the School of Communications at Idaho State University.

In March, the Idaho Legislature approved required local matching funds for a submitted competitive grant to the U.S. Department of Commerce, Public Telecommunications Facilities Program (PTFP) that would, if successful provide funding for Phase 1 (of 3) of the studio equipment replacement project. Phase 1 will replace basic studio facilities in Boise, whose age exceeds in some cases 30 years. In addition to PTFP, IdahoPTV will be submitting additional grant requests to other funding entities.

Phase 2 (of 3) also involves replacing very old and basic television studio production equipment in Moscow and Pocatello. In addition, as outlined in my September 2004 GM Report, Idaho State University has invited IdahoPTV to move our personnel and facilities from the basement of the Education Building to new space within the School of Communications housed in the Liberal Arts Building. ISU is coordinating the space reconfiguration initiative, while IdahoPTV is coordinating the upgrading of the television production equipment portion.

-MacNeil/Lehrer Productions has awarded Idaho Public Television a \$2500 planning grant to research the individuals and entities affected by illegal immigration in our state, in anticipation of a special hour-long program on the subject this fall.

Idaho has an estimated 19,000 illegal immigrants. These workers, while filling a need for construction, service and agricultural workers, are also putting a strain on the medical, educational and legal sectors of our communities. Uncompensated health care, bilingual education, judicial and correctional services for illegal immigrants are strapping an already strained county system in this rural state.

A group called "Protect Idaho Now" has formed to put an initiative on the ballot similar to Arizona's law barring immigrants without documentation from voting or receiving public benefits. A county commissioner in Idaho recently tried to get the governor to declare his county a "disaster area" because of the costs of incarcerating and providing health care to undocumented workers. And the Idaho Association of Counties recently tried to get legislation passed that would have capped the amount that counties have to pay for uncompensated health care for illegals.

At the same time, Idaho Senator Larry Craig is co-sponsoring legislation with Sen. Edward Kennedy that would streamline the immigration process for agricultural workers.

The grant will be used for an outreach consultant who, in June, will convene a group of citizens affected by this issue, to learn more about its effect on various sectors of the community. The citizens will spend 3 hours talking with each other and a moderator about how illegal immigration is affecting them and what they would like to see in an educational television initiative about the subject. The intent would be to use some of the participants in an eventual documentary piece and televised discussion in the fall, to tie in with a national MacNeil/Lehrer production.

-On March 22, 2005, former Friends of Idaho Public Television Board Member Jeanne Hoover, died from a massive stroke. Jeanne was instrumental in the statewide rollout of our annual READING RAINBOW YOUNG WRITERS AND ILLUSTRATORS CONTEST several years ago. In addition, she was a warm and gentle person whose wisdom inspired the Board and staff. She will be deeply missed by all of us who knew her.

-The long running Friday night PBS program WALL STREET WEEK WITH FORTUNE will broadcast its final program on June 24, 2005. For nearly thirty years, WALL STREET WEEK was hosted by Louis Rukeyser. For the last two years, the program has been hosted by Geoffrey Colvin and Karen Gibbs. Maryland Public Television, the program's producer, cited diminishing corporate underwriting as the primary reason for the cessation of production.

## IDAHOPTV REACHES OUT

-On Thursday, March 1, Peter Morrill spoke to the Pocatello Rotary Club.

-On Tuesday, March 29, 2005, Peter Morrill lectured to an advanced television production class at the School of Journalism and Mass Media at the University of Idaho in Moscow.

-On Wednesday, April 6, Peter Morrill spoke to the Boise Bench Lions Club at their luncheon meeting.

## IDAHOPTV SIGNALS UPDATE

IdahoPTV's northern Idaho translator stations are getting a much needed upgrade through a USDA Rural Utilities Services grant received last fall. Sites will be receiving new translators, antennas, and other equipment. Last month, Kooskia and Juliaetta received new modular buildings to house the sensitive equipment. During the summer months, new tower structures will be erected at the Juliaetta, Kooskia, Kamiah and Kellogg translator sites. Radio equipment will follow shortly thereafter.



Juliaetta



Kooskia

## IDAHOPTV STAFF UPDATES AND TRANSITIONS

IdahoPTV Chief Engineer Ted Poe has been issued a Program of Certification from the Society of Broadcast Engineers.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS OF IDAHO PUBLIC TELEVISION'S FRIENDS AND FOUNDATION BOARDS

- Friends of Idaho Public Television: KAID/KIPT, Wednesday, April 20, 10:30am.
- Friends of Idaho Public Television: KUID/KCDT, Thursday, June 16, Noon.
- Idaho Public Television Foundation, Friday, April 15, 4pm.

## IDAHOPTV RECOGNIZED

On April 5, 2005, IdahoPTV was notified by Worldfest that three of our local productions attained at least finalist status in their 2005 competition. The final awards are announced on May 2. The programs are:

Designing Idaho  
Outdoor Idaho: War of the Weeds  
Outdoor Idaho: Jewel of the North

## IDAHO REPORTS AIRS SPECIAL LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP REPORT

- Aired Thursday, April 7 at 8:00/7:00 p.m. MT/PT
- Repeated Saturday, April 9 at 7:00/6:00 a.m. MT/PT and 6:00 p.m. Pacific Time only

IDAHO REPORTS aired a special live report of the closing days of the Idaho Legislature on Thursday (April 7) at 8:00/7:00 p.m. MT/PT on Idaho Public Television.

IdahoPTV's weekly legislative program was scheduled for a different day and time than usual for this wrap-up account of the first regular session of the 58th Idaho Legislature.

Host Jim Peck was joined by statehouse reporters Betsy Russell, Spokesman-Review; and Greg Hawn of The Idaho Statesman, to discuss the events and actions of the three-month session. Other guests included Jim Fisher, Editorial Writer for the Lewiston Tribune; Marty Trillehasse of the Post Register; and Brian Whitlock, Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor.

Peck and his guests took calls from viewers on a toll-free line. The show was also archived at the Web site for viewing online.

## IDAHOPTV TURNED CAMERAS ON IDAHOANS SEEKING THE PAST TO ENLIVEN AND ENRICH THE PRESENT

- Aired Thursday, March 10 at 8:30 p.m. MT/PT
- Repeated Sunday, March 13 at 6:30 p.m. MT/PT

Many Idahoans find a bright future in the past and they share some of their experiences in a new OUTDOOR IDAHO special that premiered on March 10 on Idaho Public Television.

BACK TO THE PAST: AN OUTDOOR IDAHO SPECIAL revealed interests that run the gamut from Stone Age tools to researching family history.

Lead Producer Bruce Reichert says that no matter the era that fascinates them — the Middle Ages, the West's mountain-men years, the Civil War — or how they research, reveal or preserve history, these people enrich the present.

“For some it is a love of history, for others, a search for community; some are convinced the past holds the key to a better future and some just want to have fun,” Reichert says of the expedition into the past. “Our show originated as a way to explore the ‘living history’ movement that seems to be sweeping the country, but it also deals with the concept of progress, and an underlying question that emerges: Are the present and future naturally better than the past?”

At the rabbitstick gathering near Rexburg, a pre-industrial village emerges where villagers learn how to make and use primitive tools. “There is something within us that has been patterned for 99.9 percent of our human history, which is founded in the Stone Age,” says Dave Westcott, Rabbitstick organizer, Rexburg.

The clank of swords, bright colors and a solemn knighting ceremony mark the Society for Creative Anachronism spring festival near Idaho Falls. Members talk of their love of history, friends who are like family and being part of a chivalrous society. Baron Dietrich Schneewolf (Chuck Wemple of Idaho Falls) says: “It is not a form of escape. It is a desire to bring back something that was lost.”

Nationwide, there is an increase in historic pursuits and people immersing themselves in the past and Idahoans are not being left behind. Idaho's re-enactors celebrate mountain men and the fur trapping rendezvous; demonstrate American Civil War equipment, including cannons; move wagons and horses across the Snake River without a bridge; and run sheep through Ketchum.

The state's citizens also use many means to keep the past alive as a beacon for the future. They are restoring a theater in Rupert, investigating a drowned town under a reservoir, applying archaeological science to reveal a building's secrets, keeping heirloom plant varieties alive and growing, or learning about family members who preceded them.

Althea Torgerson of Hamer went into the Idaho Archives building in Boise to learn more about a family mystery on her husband's side and her own relative's connection to it. She found answers among documents there but she also found an understanding about time, family heritage and the reach of the past into the present.

"I learned that regardless of what people have done in the past, they still want you to know them," Torgerson says.

The special showcases the work of many people at IdahoPTV including: producers John Crancer (Rendezvous), Marcia Franklin (Heirloom Seeds), Jennifer Isenhardt (American Falls and Wilson Theater) and Morgan Dethman (Basque House); videographers Jeff Tucker, Alan Austin, Chuck Cathcart, Pat Metzler, Mike Gough and Tom Hadzor; and editors Pat Metzler, Jeff Tucker, Chuck Cathcart and Alan Austin. Others include Morgan Dethman, graphics, and Stephanie Dickey, Web site.

Psychiatric nurse practitioner Nancy Nadolski, Boise, says that people seek connection, experience and a sense of who they are in the world when they reach for the past. "They want to be part of a family; they want to be connected. If changing their physical appearance, growing a beard for two months, changing what they're wearing on a daily basis and what they're sleeping and eating, can create some kind of connection, that's a wonderful gift," Nadolski says.

## IDAHO YOUTH ZOOM INTO ACTION 2005!

Idaho Public Television encourages all children and adolescents to ZOOM INTO ACTION, which is a national effort led by the ZOOM television series. ZOOM INTO ACTION challenges children to make a difference in local communities through volunteering.

Video segments spotlight volunteer projects organized by kids from around Idaho. The spots air during the ZOOM series (weekdays at 4:30/3:30 p.m. MT/PT) through May 6. The segments can also be viewed online at IdahoPTV's Web site ([idahoptv.org/zoom-action/action/](http://idahoptv.org/zoom-action/action/)) by clicking on the "How You Are Helping" link.

IdahoPTV features 20 projects this year. The first project follows members of a Lewiston youth volunteer group as they take on the job of decorating Locomotive Park in Lewiston for the holiday season.

The Lena Whitmore Adventure Club in Moscow zooms into action for the second segment (airing April 5). Club members are led by Jake Smallkowski of the Americorps' Palouse Clearwater Environmental Institute as they build an outdoor classroom that is a replica of native Palouse plants. The students work hard to plant blue bunch wheat grass and Idaho fescue.

The project by Silver Sage Girl Scout Troop 448 airs nationally as part of ZOOM in May. Troop 448 installed bluebird nest boxes around a Ketchum golf course. The troop was spotlighted for last year's ZOOM INTO ACTION, and their volunteer project was such a success, ZOOM chose it as one of the projects to feature nationwide.

## INL SCHOLASTIC TOURNAMENT FINALS

— Aired Saturday, March 26 at 5:00/4:00 p.m. MT/PT

Idaho high school scholars competed for state titles in three divisions, large, medium and small, in the Idaho National Laboratory Scholastic Tournament.

Idaho Public Television taped the championship matches for state titles at the IdahoPTV studios in Boise. A series of regional matches determined the Class A, B and C state competitors. The championship competition aired Saturday, March 26, at 5:00/4:00 p.m. MT/PT.

Winning teams who correctly answered the most questions on academic subjects, with an emphasis on math and science, will represent Idaho in the National Science Bowl, April 28-May 3 in Washington, D.C.

Nearly 1,000 students at some 80 schools participated statewide, beginning in December, in the INL-sponsored competition. Idaho has more high schools competing in the U.S. Department of Energy-sponsored tournament than in any of the other 66 regional tournaments nationwide. Idaho's competition also covers the largest geographical area.

Class A Schools (large schools):

Idaho Falls High School (200 points) -- winner  
Century High School of Pocatello (155 points)

Class B Schools (middle size schools):

South Fremont High School of St. Anthony (190 points) -- winner  
Soda Springs High School (165 points)

Class C Schools (small size schools):

Montrose Academy of Moscow (160 points) -- winner  
Community School of Sun Valley (115 points)

## SCIENCE TREK 2005

Science Trek 2005 is scheduled for Friday, April 22 at the Idaho Museum of Natural History on the Idaho State University campus in Pocatello. This annual overnight science adventure is for third, fourth and fifth-graders.

Children will explore the frontiers of science with practicing scientists in such disciplines as physics, reptiles, engineering, lasers, geology and nursing. The sleep-over (with sleeping bags and pillows brought by participants) is in museum galleries amid exhibits on dinosaurs, volcanoes, outer space and more.

This event is co-sponsored by the museum and Idaho Public Television.

## DIALOGUE FOR KIDS LOOKS AT...TRASH!

— Aired Tuesday, April 19 at 2:00/1:00 p.m. MT/PT

When you toss something into the trash, science takes over. Scientists find ways to dispose of trash and not ruin the environment. They can even turn garbage into electricity. How do they do it? Do you know where your trash goes and what happens to it?

Experts, Ana Masterson from BFI Recycling and Ted Hutchinson from the Ada County Landfill will answer questions from students live on air.

Students can e-mail their questions to [dialogue4kids@idahoptv.org](mailto:dialogue4kids@idahoptv.org) or they can FAX them in before the show to (208) 373-7245 or call in live during the program to (800) 973-9800.

## DIALOGUE CELEBRATES A DECADE OF PROGRAMMING

— Aired Thursday, March 17 at 8:30 p.m. MT/PT

Idaho Public Television's weekly public affairs program celebrates 10 years of programming with a special DIALOGUE that looks back at memorable episodes, topics and guests. Hosts Marcia Franklin and Joan Cartan-Hansen shared clips from some of their favorite shows.

The 45-minute program touched on the broad range of topics seen on DIALOGUE: the environment, politics, youth issues, social news, health care, education and the humanities. There was even a humorous look back at past hairstyles worn by Cartan-Hansen and Franklin.

Memorable episodes featured in the program included clips from musician Gene Harris, historians Stephen Ambrose, Doris Kearns Goodwin and David Halberstam; humorists Mark Russell and Molly Ivins; and Boise natives Michael Hoffman and Michael Kirk, both filmmakers. The program also included segments from issue-oriented debates on controversial topics such as wolf reintroduction, snowmobiling in Yellowstone and same-sex marriage.

Since 1994, DIALOGUE has aired more than 400 programs, bringing topics of importance to Idahoans across the state and allowing viewers a chance to call in and take part in the statewide conversation.

"There is really nothing like DIALOGUE in Idaho," says Franklin. "The program reaches the whole state, and allows viewers to interact with guests, whether they be politicians, world-class authors or scientists."

Cartan-Hansen says, "Producing and hosting DIALOGUE means a fresh challenge every week. I'm amazed at the breadth and depth of issues we've covered over the last 10 years. And we have so many new and exciting DIALOGUES to come."

The show is available for later viewing on the IdahoPTV Web site ([idahoptv.org/dialogue](http://idahoptv.org/dialogue)).

## PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO DISCUSSED THE STATE OF RADIO WITH DIALOGUE

- Aired Thursday, March 24, at 8:30/7:30 pm MT/PT
- Repeated Sunday, March 27, at 5:30/4:30 MT/PT

DIALOGUE discussed the state of radio broadcasting with Kevin Klose, president and CEO of National Public Radio.

Klose, a former correspondent and editor with The Washington Post and a former Woodrow Wilson National Fellow, became president of NPR in 1998. He talked with host Marcia Franklin about how innovations such as satellite radio and podcasting are reshaping the industry, and examines the role of organizations such as the International Broadcasting Bureau, which broadcasts programs such as "Voice of America" into other nations.

NPR has more than 770 stations nationwide and a weekly audience of more than 22 million listeners.

## DIALOGUE EXAMINED WATER CONFLICTS

- Aired Thursday, March 31, at 8:30/7:30 pm MT/PT
- Repeated Sunday, April 3, at 5:30/4:30 MT/PT

The deadline for passage of the Nez Perce Tribal Water Rights Agreement was looming the week that Dialogue examined this contentious issue.

Lawmakers were rushing to pass legislation establishing a framework for a possible solution to the Eastern Snake Plain Aquifer conflict. At the same time, the Bonneville Power Administration predicted higher energy prices this summer because of the low precipitation levels. And water issues dominate the news. But what does it all really mean for most Idahoans?

On this episode of Dialogue, experts answered viewer questions about the major water issues facing the state. Host Joan Cartan-Hansen was joined by Idaho Statesman environmental reporter Rocky Barker, Political reporter Julie Pence from the Twin Falls Times-News and Natural Resources Professor John Freemuth from Boise State University.

## DIALOGUE REMEMBERS LOCAL LEGEND AND JAZZ GREAT GENE HARRIS

— Aired Thursday, April 7, at 8:30/7:30 pm MT/PT

— Repeated Sunday, April 10, at 5:30/4:30 MT/PT

DIALOGUE looked back at the life and career of a fixture on the Boise music scene, the late Grammy Award-winning pianist and jazz legend Gene Harris.

Janie Harris, Gene Harris' widow, and Bob Evancho, co-authors of the upcoming biography "Elegant Soul: The Life and Music of Gene Harris," joined host Joan Cartan-Hansen in the studio to discuss the book. The book, to be released this spring, includes numerous interviews with family, friends, bandmates and journalists.

Cartan-Hansen and guests talked about the long-lasting impact Harris has had on the jazz scene and Boise. The pianist touched many lives in Idaho, and founded his namesake jazz festival before his death in 2000.

## ARTICLE ABOUT WEST OF THE BASQUE

IdahoPTV's Jim Peck checks back in with us about the new documentary about Basques in Idaho, "West of the Basque."

By Jim Peck, Special to The Idaho Statesman

Edition Date: 03-06-2005

"My friends, I tell them, 'Don't even think of coming here....don't even think of coming here,' I tell them," said Luceo Borgia. "'Don't even think of coming to the United States. You suffer here,' I tell my friends. 'It's nothing easy earning the green money,' I tell them. 'You have to suffer.'"

It's been more than three months since I came back from the Basque country, and I can't get these words from a lonely sheepherder out of my head.

Tomorrow evening, "West of the Basque" premieres on my station, Idaho Public Television. It's been more than a year since I started working on this program and now it's done. When you do a show like this, you can't help but immerse yourself in the subject. When it's done there's a feeling of excitement and completion. And there's a sense of loneliness because the thing that's been keeping you company, the thing you've been devoted to, doesn't need you anymore.

There is so much more to the story of the Basques in Idaho than I thought when I first started trying to tell it over a year ago. No one-hour television program can cover it all, but I found myself surprised at the layers of the tale as I watched it from start to finish the other day.

You might have read about my trip to the Basque country in these pages last autumn. It was an amazing trip and I think about it all the time. I want to go back. But the parts of the story that really grip me are from this side of the world.

Portions of the story of the Basque in Idaho are like a lot of other immigrant stories. But there is something unique about these people that separates them from the others. We all know Italians, Irish, Germans or members of the other ethnic groups that came to America looking for a better life. We have an idea in our heads of what their countries look like, what their language sounds like. I don't think that's true of the Basque, even for people who live out here in the West where most Basque settled. That's one of the big reasons I wanted to do this show.

The generations of Idaho Basque are still with us. I looked across the room during a reception for the late Jimmy Jausoro and could see the better part of a century of Basque history. Jimmy was an icon of the community. He played the accordion for the Oinkari Basque Dancers and every other event for as long as anyone can remember. He died in December 2004.

There in that room was former Secretary of State Pete Cenarrusa, who never lost an election in more than 50 years in state government. He's the son of immigrant parents, born into the sheepherding community of Carey in 1917. Over in another corner was Dave Bieter, mayor of Boise, and his brother John, a professor at BSU. They're part of the next generation; their grandparents came from Bizkaia. And there's Sean Aucutt, who dances with the Oinkari; one of his grandparents was Basque. And scattered around were some little kids, some of whom are learning Basque at the Boise Ikastola. It's the only place in the United States where pre-schoolers are learning the Basque language.

They all came to remember and celebrate their old friend Jimmy. Most of the tears were left at the funeral, but some still moistened cheeks between laughter and the telling of stories.

It struck me that the Basques here in Boise really do make up a kind of extended family. As I sat there, I realized that most of the people who brought the Basque culture to this part of the West were represented right in that room.

The Basques came to Idaho when Idaho was just becoming a state and the sons and daughters of those pioneers were all around. The generations could be seen with the glance of an eye. And most only had to drive a few miles to be there. That's certainly not true of what you'd find with the Irish in Boston or the Italians in New York.

There in the room where I was sitting was most of the past, present and future of Basques in Idaho. Most of the people in "West of the Basque" were right there — laughing, smiling, crying. There in that room were people who had started from humble roots with the sheep and had gone on to lead our state and still lead our city. It is, perhaps, just another example of the American immigrant story, but I think it's more than that. Sitting there, you realize that Idaho really wouldn't be Idaho without the Basque.

They came here to make some money and then go home. I talked with Basque scholar William Douglass at the University of Nevada-Reno, who said, "Most Basque probably intended to return. In fact in all of my years of interviewing Basque in the American West, only one man ever said to me that he left the Basque country intending never to go back."

It was the sheep that brought them here, that provided them with jobs. It's a myth that the Basque were natural herders. John Bieter told me, "Immigrants do work that nobody else wants to do. If you go to Australia today and you say Basque, they'll associate them with sugarcane cutting."

But while you won't find any Basque sheepherders, that way of life hasn't vanished. That way of life is just being lived by different people, another generation of immigrants, people like Luceo Borga. He's from Peru. He came to Idaho to find something better. Sound familiar?

"You're alone, without family, without your children, it's sadder," he said. "I'll see what's up ahead. I think I'll return for one more contract and then, I'll probably go back to Peru."

It's what most of the Basque herders said more than 100 years ago. It's a hard life he's living. But you can't help but wonder: In another hundred years, will we be saying Idaho wouldn't be Idaho without the Peruvians?

The story of the immigrants in Idaho continues. The Basque have moved from the sheep camps to the Statehouse, they fill our communities with another layer of the tapestry of Idaho. And for some, like Luceo Borga and others, Idaho is still the frontier, a promised land where possibility lies in the mountains and with the sheep.

So for me, this show is done and I hope you'll watch tomorrow. I have tried to tell this story well, but there are still lots more. Now it's on to the next one.

## ARTICLE ABOUT READING RAINBOW YOUNG WRITERS AND ILLUSTRATORS CONTEST

By Emily Simnitt, The Idaho Statesman  
Edition Date: 03-07-2005

Got a budding writer in your household?

Here's a chance to get them some exposure: Reading Rainbow and Idaho Public Television are calling on Idaho's youngest writers and illustrators (kindergartners through third graders) to enter the 11th Annual Young Writers and Illustrators Contest.

"It's important to encourage children in all their literacy efforts," says Kris Freeland, Idaho Public Television's education director. "Reading and writing is an important aspect in all parts of our lives. This contest takes those skills beyond the classroom walls."

First place winners from each local station (our local station is KAID/KIPT Boise) get to compete at the national level for prizes that include Reading Rainbow DVDs and matching feature books.

Plus, the winners will be published online at Idaho Public Television's Web site.

Last year, 535 kids submitted stories statewide, with 240 coming from Southwest Idaho.

Local winners from Southwest Idaho wrote about troops starving in Gettysburg, a big fat cat named Bob and a mystery about a Christmas ornament that fixed itself, among other topics.

Yep.

Creativity and originality are highly valued in this contest. Entered stories also get points for storytelling and how well stories and pictures work together.

This year's deadline is March 25. Here's how to enter:

- Get an entry form at the closest public library or online at [idahoptv.org/kids](http://idahoptv.org/kids). While you're online, check out the complete contest rules and read last year's winning entries.
- Have your child write a story that's 50 to 200 words (kindergarten and first grade) or 100 to 350 words (second to third grade). Stories must have at least five illustrations. If your child can't write yet, take dictation. Entries can be either typed or handwritten.
- Sign the form. This grants permission to public television to use the entry for promotional purposes. A parent or teacher must sign the form for the entry to be valid.

(The following is a related side-bar article...)

Write a little, win a lot  
Related Links

- \* [Writingfix.com](http://Writingfix.com)
- \* [IdahoPTV writing contest rules](#)
- \* [Last year's winning stories](#)

[Click to learn more...](#)  
[Additional Information](#)  
[Get writing](#)

Here is how Heather Glass, who runs after-school writing programs at several local schools, says parents can help their kids become better writers:

- Provide a reason to write. Getting them involved in the Reading Rainbow contest is a good place to start.
- Encourage kids to try different kinds of writing. In addition to the usual (letters, stories, poems) have them write lists. Buy them a journal and encourage them to take it with them and write in different places.
- Write daily. Write about anything, real or imagined. If kids have difficulty coming up with ideas, get suggestions at [www.writingfix.com](http://www.writingfix.com).
- Write with them. Compose your own story as they work on their story for the contest.
- Limit editing. Don't correct. Instead, talk with your child about how they can revise to make their writing better.
- Encourage publishing. What better way to do this than getting them involved in a writing contest?

## ARTICLE ABOUT BACK TO THE PAST

By Dianne Ronayne, Idaho Statesman

"Back to the Past" airs at 8:30 p.m. Thursday on Idaho Public Television. "It's definitely the strangest, most diverse group of people we've ever collected for an 'Outdoor Idaho' show!" producer Bruce Reichert says. "Primitive Stone Age technologists, a medieval knighting ceremony, mountain men, Three Island Crossing, old buildings, even heirloom seeds and tomatoes the way they used to taste! The show explores 'living history' re-enactors and looks at the very notion of 'progress' itself. Nancy Nadolski, Boise psychiatric nurse practitioner, talks about how reveling in the past can give children a bigger view of their responsibility in the world. It ends with a Kurt Vonnegut quote: 'Be careful what you pretend to be because you are what you pretend to be.'

In conjunction with the program, on March 23 Bruce joins archivist Rod House, Idaho Genealogical Society leaders Bonnie Fuller and Kathy Tanabe Stutzman, and family researchers Althea Nordstrom Torgerson and Leslie Kelly Hall to talk about the stories behind the stories OI taped, from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. at the Idaho State Historical Society Library, 450 N 4<sup>th</sup> St. (at State Street); \$5 fee. Information: 334-3356, [sbarrett@ishs.state.id.us](mailto:sbarrett@ishs.state.id.us).